

“Stay At Home” Guidance for Childcare Providers Who Chose to Stay Open

On April 30, 2020, Governor Walz issued an Executive Order that extends and modifies the *Stay at Home* order and limits movements outside of homes beyond activities [included in the order](#) and to work in Critical Sectors and [Non-Critical Exempt Businesses](#). This will be effective beginning on Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 11:59 pm through Sunday, May 17, 2020 at 11:59 pm. The Executive Orders directing closures in our communities do not apply to child care providers. Caregivers and child care providers are expressly listed as critical sector exemptions. Essential activities of critical sectors and non-critical exempt businesses include the transportation of children and families to a child care provider and caregiver transportation to and from home or other setting. However, each provider will need to determine for themselves whether they wish to remain open or to close during this public health emergency.

The Executive Orders expressly encouraged child care providers to remain open to provide child care services to the critical sectors during the Stay At Home order period. Our guidance encourages those open to provide care for children of all essential workers in the Governor’s Stay at Home order, to prioritize space for children as capacity allows in this order (sectors further described below):

- Children of Tier 1 workers (age 0 to 5)
- Children of other essential workers (age 0 to 5), and
- School-age children of essential workers.

Schools are directed to provide school-age care to district-enrolled 5- to 12-year-olds to Tier 1 critical sectors. If they cannot do so, schools are asked to work with child care providers to identify and contract for this care if possible. All other families within the critical sectors (many groups beyond the Tier 1) will continue to need your services.

Tier 1:

- Healthcare and public health
- Food and agriculture, including groceries and essential supply stores
- Law enforcement, public safety and first responders
- National Guard
- Educators
- Childcare providers caring for children of any critical worker in the Governor’s Executive Order

In addition to Tier 1, workers in critical sectors also include:

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| • Energy | • Legislative Branch (essential services) |
| • Water and Wastewater | • Federal employees |
| • Transportation and logistics | • Faith leaders and workers |
| • Public works | • Construction and critical trades |
| • Communications and information technology | • Hotels, residential facilities and shelters |
| • Other community-based government operations and essential workers | • Shelters for displaced individuals |
| • Critical manufacturing | • Charitable and social services organizations |
| • Hazardous materials | • Legal services |
| • Financial services | • Notaries |
| • Chemical | • Critical Labor Union Foundations |
| • Defense industrial base | • Laundry services |
| • Tribal Governments | • Animal shelters and veterinarians |
| • Executive Branch (priority services) | • Real Estate Transactions |
| • Executive Constitutional Offices | • Essential Supply Stores |

Families are ordered to Stay At Home, other than exempted activities like going to the grocery store, doctor, walking outside or other activities [here](#); people working in critical sectors and non-critical exempt businesses, are permitted to leave home if they need to do so for work. There is nothing in the order that specifically prohibits a family from taking their child to child care and if a provider wants to continue taking these children, the Executive Order does not expressly prohibit that; however, this is not keeping with the overall message and spirit of the order and goal to keep child care providers open for emergency workers. The Governor is asking people to stay home unless they are leaving for work in a critical sector or non-critical exempt business, and, as a result, families you were previously serving may no longer utilize your care during the period of the Stay At Home order (through May 17, 2020 at 11:59 PM).